

OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS, A SOCIOLOGICAL PHENOMENON OF THE MODERN SPORTS

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Abstract

This research is aimed to evaluate from a sociological point of view the Olympics volunteers' phenomenon, a movement by which those so famous and followed summer and winter Olympic Games couldn't be held, likewise; those special, Paralympics and Youth Games couldn't be held either. We used the documentary analysis and historical logical methods to carry out the investigation; being its greatest contribution the evaluation of the Olympic volunteer's socio-psychological characteristics and the socio-political and economical environment they live in, which allow them to take part in these international competitions of a greater magnitude. This work labels and identifies the volunteers taking into consideration the role they play during the contests and makes a proposal for a way of contribution to make internationally wider the Olympic ideal through the Olympic volunteers' phenomenon.

Keywords: Sociology, Olympic Games, Paralympics Games, competitions and workers

Introduction

According to the Royal Spanish Academy of Language Volunteer concept, *voluntarius* comes from Latin and means "In an act: that is born of the will, not by force or foreign to that need. That is done by spontaneous will and not out of obligation or duty. They work on a whim. Person among several required per shift or designation to perform any work or service is paid to do so voluntarily, without waiting for you to touch her again. "

Volunteering, in general, is a phenomenon that develops worldwide and is practiced by different age groups, where their motivations are diverse and depend on many factors among which are identified: social and economic status, religious thought, affiliation political parties, tastes, preferences, gender, race, gender, etc. This phenomenon is also associated with various branches of economic, social and political life of the countries, such as sporting events (Olympics, world, continental, regional, national, provincial and municipal); cultural events (music, theater, film, visual arts, etc.) political demonstrations; religious expressions; social events; among others.

Volunteers are people who give nothing in return, offer their services for pleasure, spiritual fulfillment or social recognition, but never expect to change monetary or wage payment; this point may seem simple, but holds the key to the problem situation that is looming as a sociological phenomenon of volunteering. Since it is generally considered that

people are not willing to offer their services without obtaining financial reward; regardless of their social position, economic, political, religious, likes, preferences, gender, race, etc.

So study this sociological manifestation of volunteering, making today great importance to the world of sport, it could not perform their major competitive events without the unconditional support of this great mass of humanity that serves as volunteers. According to (Durantez, C. 1998) "Olympism is the world's largest sociological organization today," the authors of this research believe that without the active and meaningful participation of the Olympic volunteers, the claim could not be realized.

With regard to this matter (Palomo, M. 2013) states that: "the role of civil volunteer during the Olympics has increased throughout history. Today, the figure has become essential, both economically and in organizing the event. Experts on the subject say that symbolize the Olympic volunteers, along with the games, "hope in a more caring, egalitarian and participatory world."

Thence the general objective of this research is to appraise the socio- psychological characteristic of the Olympic volunteers that engage in the big international competitions.

Methodology

The research is focus in a materialistic orientation because of the objective reality, the contradictions of the object of study in its development and evolution, as well as how they resolve these contradictions are evident.

For the development of the research were used the following methods:

Document Review

Was used throughout the investigation to the conceptual and theoretical framework for the diagnosis to be included in policy documents to state the problem under study.

Historical and Logical Method

Allow to establish the necessary correspondence between the elements of the logical and historical methods, in order to analyze the historical development of the phenomenon of Olympic volunteers and the logical projection of future development in the socio-psychological influence on society.

Results and discussion

Many people hold that the Modern Olympic Games would not be possible without the generous and selfless cooperation of Olympic volunteers and do not make wrong those who think like that: Olympic volunteers really are a key part of the organization, implementation and development of the Games.

Who are the volunteers? What are their characteristics? What are their culture, religion, profession, and social status? What age and sex averaged? These and other questions are answered below.

Olympic volunteers are primarily noble people with a great heart, able to sacrifice their free time and to work at a so fair work and human like the Olympic Games; them at every opportunity, waiting with joy and excitement the arrival of a major competition to provide their solidarity aid without waiting for their work to be paid, they are happy and they are pleased with their work, providing their input as true gentlemen, serving each in a position which according to their professional features.

These professional features are diverse and are preferably grouped taking into account the knowledge about the sport are those who have the great army of global Olympic volunteers ; this is related to the staff formation on sport each volunteer has successfully

developed and can serve in multiple positions in the competitive world, as assistants, scorekeepers, massage therapists, judges, among others.

Also play in other positions offered by the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games in question (OCOG), these include: security personnel, transportation, computers, protocol translators, lodging and meals, group coordinators, sports, sports statistics, radio and TV broadcasts, guide delegations, among others. As you can see, there are multiple volunteer roles within the scenario of a multi-sport games, always related to their training; all are important, regardless of training, because we also need to load the hurdles and collect the clothes of the competitors on the track, to cite just one example, namely, that all efforts are accepted with the same respect and appreciation.

Their cultures are varied, depending on the country in which they arise; but in those countries whose religious patterns governing the conditioning of these social behavior is evident; in most countries where different religions are expressed, these will not condition the cultural patterns that are governed by feelings of cultural identity of their nation. In all these cases, the work of the volunteer develops in an environment and cultural multireligion where a deep respect for all persons without distinction of any kind prevails. The predominant races are set on the basis of the country and host city of the games, it is logical to expect that predominated in the Hellenistic Athens 2004. Although the ages of the volunteers are varied, it can be said that there is a predominance of young people willing to cooperate, and that the characteristics of this age people tend to have a spirit of adventure. With regard to sex, one can assert that usually behave evenly and benefits of any sex over another are usually not significant.

These are some of the main characteristics of the volunteers, however, it is also necessary to assess some features deeper sociological case that few authors have related and correspond to the social status of origin of the volunteers and their average behavior.

Based on these valuations should be noted that volunteers can also be classified as domestic and foreign; national, as the word implies, are permanent residents in the country where the games are made (although it may be the case that there is a national citizen but has permanent residency and citizenship or dual citizenship country) in conclusion, These are the citizens who live in the country where the games will be made; foreigners are self-explanatory, that is, citizens of other countries traveling to the country of the games to volunteer.

Another social group corresponding to native-born citizens of the games, but have migrated abroad for multiple causes and return the country back to work as volunteers motivated by games and a national pride.

This analysis still follows other social assessment related to economic power of volunteers ultimately latter assessment will be determined by the participation or non-citizens as volunteers within a multi-sport games national signals or international (later explain why it specifies national) citizens economically disadvantaged practically are unable to offer their services as volunteers but his desire was to cooperate since the absence of sufficient financial resources to man taken them and their families, spend much of their time looking for that financial support, especially if they are unemployed.

Poor citizens still have some more opportunities to offer their services as volunteers to employees, but are also limited their participation. States and family stability depends on having at the time of the games developed; that family stability will therefore depend to a poor citizen can register as a volunteer. It's interesting how global poverty affects up to Olympic volunteers and denies them offer their solidarity contribution.

In all cases discussed above, the references have been residents volunteer in the country of the games, because even dream, with a few income citizen of another country to provide services as an Olympic volunteer. Moreover, those who enjoy economic stability in

income, which are mostly offer their voluntary services, whether foreign or not; they use their free time or vacation to volunteer, not only in games but in other social sectors. Thousands of volunteers working in conservation and environmental protection in many countries, to give just one sector.

There are countries that also use volunteers to develop the national sport as in the case of Cuba. In 1961, an organization run by the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER) called Volunteers Sports Councils, which plays similar to the Olympic volunteers within the functions within a few games, but are not limited created their activities only to games of national or provincial nature that have a specific sport, but many of them serve as directors and teachers of sports teams at various levels of education, particularly at primary and secondary levels of the national education system all with a strict supervision of INDER.

Clearly, there are citizens of poor countries who also want to participate as Olympic volunteers because Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting the balance of soul and spirit, (Coubertin, P. 1916);but are also a means of education and peace among peoples and a great work of human fairness and cultural development.

Hence the purpose of this research: to create a commission to help aspiring Olympic volunteers to participate in the games; this should select people who may be disadvantaged in relation to the objectives thereof, which may, inter alia, the dissemination of the Olympic ideal in every continent. The Olympics is a unique experience that can only be lived and experienced in the development of these games; by magazines, TV or radio is not possible to capture the Olympic atmosphere that permeates the city host the games, without being there.

The dream of every lover of philosophy of Olympism is to participate in any way in an international multi- games; those who never achieve being a super national or international athlete will have the opportunity to live great experiences that only live there; those who see the Olympic spirit, thousands of volunteers are happy to work for the work they do and contribute to better development of games and diffuse ideal of Olympism.

Conclusion

1. Olympic volunteers are characterized by noble people, who enjoy providing their work voluntarily for the proper conduct of sporting competitions.
2. Olympic volunteers working in multiple positions in the competitive world, as assistants, scorekeepers, massage therapists, judges, security, transportation, computers, protocol translators, lodging and meals, group coordinators, sports, sports statistics, radio and TV broadcasts, guide delegations, among others.
3. From a cultural and religious manifestations are varied, voluntary work takes place in a multi-religious and cultural environment, where a deep respect for all persons without distinction of any kind and creed prevails.

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